



MINUTES
OF THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLD MEETING
Omega Center, 104 Walco Lane, Malvern, Arkansas
March 12, 2009

Members Present:

Leroy Brownlee, Chairman
Abraham Carpenter, Jr., Vice-Chairman
John Felts, Commissioner
Carolyn Robinson, Commissioner
John Belken, Commissioner
Joseph Peacock, Commissioner

HEARING EXMAINERS:

Carol V. Bohannon, Attorney
James L. Williams, II, Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON(S): **Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner**
Ernest Sanders, Jr., Attorney/Hearing Examiner

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Lois Jean Hansberry, Administrative Assistant II

OTHERS PRESENT

Ray Hobbs, Chief Deputy Director, Arkansas Department of Correction, (ADC)

Drew Baker, Board of Correction Member

Rick Hart, Deputy Director, Department of Community Correction (DCC)

Steve Arnold, Assistant Director, Department of Community Correction (DCC)

Jeff Tillman, Assistant Director, Department of Community Correction (DCC)

Dicky Johnson, Investigator, Department of Community Correction (DCC)

Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institution Release Services, (DCC)

Kathy Brown-Arnold, Omega Center Supervisor, (DCC)

Solomon Graves, User Support Analyst, (ABP)

Lois Jean Hansberry, Administrative Assistant II, (ABP)

Tamara Salaam, Administrative Assistant I, (ABP)

Called to Order

Brownlee called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 10:05 a.m. The Chairman expressed gratitude to DCC's Kathy Brown and Rick Hart for their hospitality at the Center.

Approval of February 26, 2009 Minutes

Carpenter moved,

Felts seconded, Motion carried.

Old Business

Brownlee previously asked DCC to check on parole violators who are in the county jails and approaching their six month transfer eligibility date and report back. He then stated the report reflects only five (5) offenders are currently in the county jails and he will check with ADC to see how soon they will be transported to a unit. If the offenders transport date is not near, they will be seen in the county jail.

Solomon Graves reported that the inmate panel will resume in April and it will be held at the Cummins Unit. The Board will also be visiting the Pine Bluff parole office in April.

New Business

Drew Baker, BOC member, addressed the Board regarding recidivism and the need to stipulate recovery-classes for those addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. He further stated that he had spoke with Dan Roberts, DCC Deputy Director, regarding the recovery-class for parolees and that there are 177 available recovery classes conducted daily in the central Little Rock area. Baker also introduced men who were involved in Alcohol Anonymous (AA): Jim Bell, a 22-year recovering alcoholic, Dale Sharp a 9-year recovering alcoholic and Paul Chatman who works in the prison Ministry of Fellowship Church.

Jim Bell has been working with DCC and the Tucker unit for over a year. He has devised a program that allows him to assist released inmates. Mr. Bell will pick up a parolee when he/she is released from the Tucker unit, take that individual to his/her hometown and introduce them to a sponsor. He believes that three (3) things will aid parolees in having a successful reentry

1. Having a safe place to go when released from prison
2. Trading the old friends for sober ones (AA sponsor) and AA community and
3. Attend an AA meeting everyday for at least 3 months after their release

Furthermore, he stated that if a parolee will become active with family, AA, religion, exercise and work they will not have time to reoffend. Then he asked the Board to consider stipulating inmates who are known drug/alcohol addicts with one (1) hour a day AA meetings for three (3) months after the inmates are released.

Dale Sharp echoed his predecessor and added that recovery is about learning how to live. He further stated that he no longer has anger or eating issues. Because AA is also about servitude, it helps you to get out of self and learn to look at others in the community (AA group). Recovery gives you a sense of belonging. Another treatment to assist addicted parolees is Celebrate Recovery (CR). In CR, the 12 step program is implemented and those in the community can look to Jesus to help with the addiction; whereas, in AA everyone in that community only look to a higher power for help with the addiction.

Paul Chatman stated that he was naive regarding the living conditions that some parolees return to after their release. He stated that he begin to seek out solutions. He saw the need for a more healthy community, accountability and shared values, better morals regarding services and recovery. The three things he believe that will help a parolee successfully reenter society are: a) be active and participate in AA b) be active and participate in CR c) regularly attend church. He further noted that they must have a sponsor, and they should be stipulated to attend recovery meetings for some period of time. Lastly, Mr. Chatman asked that offenders with a record of abuse be stipulated to attend recovery meetings.

Jeff Tillman, of DCC stated that while the DCC counselors are professionals, they are technically not on duty 24 hours a day. However, sponsors for AA and CR are more personable and they are a wonderful help with certain parolees.

Belken suggested stipulating AA or CR and giving the parolee the option because legally the board could not just stipulate CR since it is religiously based.

Felts stated that he hopes the parolees will voluntarily go to CR when they are stipulated AA.

Brownlee after hearing the presentation stated that he wants everyone to understand the Board will act in compliance with the law when it comes to placing stipulations on inmates. He further stated that he will meet with ADC and DCC leaders regarding barriers and he will get back with Baker, Bell, Sharp and Chapman. The Chairman also asked Drew to stay in contact with *Mr. Felts* because this is an excellent idea if a suitable plan can be devised. He further stated that the Board is committed to Arkansas citizens and always check for reliable ways of cutting down on recidivism.

10 minute break 10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Files for Review


There was no discussion on files that were in the victim input hearing. *Robinson* asked about the length of the SOFT program. *Brownlee* stated the time is July – June.

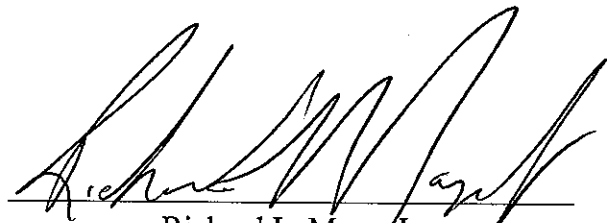
Ratification of Votes

Lois Hansberry read off the units for ratification. *Carpenter* moved.
Belken seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Kathy Brown, Omega Center supervisor made a PowerPoint presentation of the Technical Violators' Program that highlighted all programs the inmates have to complete prior to release from the Center.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



Leroy Brownelee
Chairman

Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Secretary

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FIRST BOARD VOTE RATIFICATION**

MARCH 2009

UNITS:

RATIFIED (X)

DELTA



GRIMES



MCPHERSON



NORTH CENTRAL UNIT



TUCKER



TUCKER MAX.



OTHER: TRANSFER SCREENINGS, CLEMENCIES, PARDONS,
 RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, RESCINDS, SPECIAL
 CONSIDERATIONS, ACT 290, 700'S, ETC.



MOTION BY: ABRAHAM CARPENTER **SECONDED BY:** JOHN BELKEN

RATIFICATION DATE: MARCH 12, 2009